

Lesson
9**Pronoun Problems****Teaching*****We and Us with Nouns***

The pronouns *we* and *us* are often followed by a noun that identifies the pronoun (*we* workers, *us* workers).

Use *we* when the noun is a subject or a predicate noun. Use *us* when the noun is an object.

We workers were tired after the job. (*We* were tired.)

The supervisor gave us workers a break. (The supervisor gave *us* the break.)

Unclear Reference

Be sure that each personal pronoun refers clearly to only one person, place, or thing.

Confusing Laurie and Susan care about the environment. She has volunteered to clean up the park. (Who has volunteered?)

Clear Laurie and Susan care about the environment. Laurie has volunteered to clean up the park.

A. Choosing the Correct Pronoun

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. (We, Us) visitors paid five dollars to enter the old house.
2. The price increase is not popular with (we, us) comic book readers.
3. (We, Us) artists are showing our work at the school.
4. Mrs. Watson chose (we, us) eighth graders to be library aides.
5. If (we, us) quilters get together, we can make a beautiful quilt.
6. The city requires (we, us) dog owners to keep our dogs on leashes.
7. To (we, us) experienced climbers, this climb was quite easy.
8. (We, Us) marchers waved to the crowds on the sidewalk.

B. Avoiding Unclear Reference

In each set, circle the letter of the sentence that is stated more clearly.

1. **a.** Kim and Rita take long walks every day, but Kim walks farther than Rita.
b. Kim and Rita take long walks every day, but she walks farther than she.
2. **a.** Lewis is bringing both running shoes and sandals. He says they look better, but they feel better.
b. Lewis is bringing both running shoes and sandals. He says the sandals look better, but the running shoes feel better.
3. **a.** Joann and Georgia wear glasses. She is getting contact lenses.
b. Joann and Georgia wear glasses. Georgia is getting contact lenses.

Pronoun Problems**More Practice****A. Choosing the Correct Pronoun**

In each sentence, underline the correct pronoun form.

1. (Us, We) volunteers were happy to see the park looking good again.
2. Are (we, us) students invited to the concert?
3. Just as (we, us) campers got our tents up, it started to rain.
4. (We, Us) doctors are concerned about the possibility of infection.
5. The pool is open to (we, us) swimmers after 10 o'clock.
6. The driver announced each bus stop to (we, us) passengers.
7. Mom met (we, us) travelers at the airport gate.
8. The bill's supporters are contacting (we, us) voters.
9. The most worried people in the world were (we, us) suspects.
10. (We, Us) learners all take in information in different ways.

B. Avoiding Unclear Reference

Rewrite each of these sentences to make them clear.

1. When Justin and Tony watch TV together, he refuses to share the remote.

2. Both Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were active in the women's rights movement, but most people remember only her.

3. Miko and Anne are interested in travel. She and her family are going to Japan this summer.

4. The van and the truck reached the intersection at the same time, but it pulled away more quickly.

5. Carol and Tracy went to the restaurant, and she ordered a chef's salad.

6. Whenever Simon and Brad get into an argument, he always apologizes first.

**Lesson
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Pronoun Problems

Application

A. Using Pronouns Correctly

Use each of the phrases printed below in an original sentence.

EXAMPLE we bicyclists

We bicyclists signaled a left turn.

1. we gardeners _____

2. us guests _____

3. us customers _____

4. we boaters _____

B. Proofreading for Correct Pronoun Usage

The following paragraph is filled with unclear references. Rewrite the paragraph more clearly on the lines below.

Alfonso and Ed are doing a report on immigration into the United States during the early 20th century. In doing his research, he found some interesting information about Ellis Island. Many of them passed through the station on Ellis Island on their way into the United States. Then he found some photographs of Ellis Island and the immigrants who stopped there. Alfonso and Ed were both excited about the immigrant journals they found. He decided to work with him to make a slide show. He would read the words of the immigrants as the pictures were shown on the screen. Maybe he could find more photographs for the slide show. Both the boys set to work looking for more photos and more information about the immigrant experience.
